



**State of Wisconsin**  
**Department of Public Instruction**  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*\*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### Burmaster to receive Governor's Service Award

MADISON—State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster will be recognized at the Governor's Service Awards Ceremony on April 6 for her support of service-learning and national service in Wisconsin. The citation recognizing Burmaster for the award reads, in part, "Because of Superintendent Burmaster's leadership, young people throughout the state have had increased opportunities to become involved in service activities to strengthen their communities, and educators have committed to high-quality service in their schools at all educational levels."

Burmaster is a national leader in education through service-learning, serving as chair of the National Center for Learning and Citizenship (NCLC), part of the Education Commission of the States. The NCLC assists in the development of policies that support K-12 school-based service-learning opportunities, helping students acquire the skills, values, knowledge, and practice necessary to be effective citizens.

Service-learning is a method of teaching that helps students learn and develop by participating in service activities that meet real needs in their community. During the past school year, 117 schools received grants to conduct service-learning activities that involved more than 28,500 students and 4,600 community volunteers throughout the state. Many more schools used service-learning as a teaching and learning tool to help students embrace citizenship skills.

"I am honored to be working with others in Wisconsin and the nation to strengthen service-learning as a tool to involve students in their communities and to heighten civic involvement and social consciousness so our children develop into active, principled citizens," said Burmaster. "Building knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy is important for our children's and nation's future. We want our students to leave our public schools knowing that citizenship matters."

(more)

Burmaster was nominated by a rural Wisconsin educator and selected for the award by a review panel appointed by the Wisconsin National and Community Service Board (WNCSB), a 22-member citizen body appointed by the governor. The mission of the WNCSB is to enrich lives and communities through service and volunteerism. The WNCSB also is responsible for overseeing the AmeriCorps grants which address unmet human, environmental, public safety, educational, and homeland security needs. The award will be presented at the Wisconsin Statewide National Service Conference for national and community service programs.

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